

## **Montana Transportation Commission**

**April 13, 2006 meeting**

Montana Department of Transportation headquarters building  
2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena MT

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

*Please note:* the complete recorded minutes (audio files) are available for review on the commission's website at [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans\\_comm/meetings.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml). You may request a compact disc (containing the audio files, agenda, and minutes) from the transportation secretary at (406) 444-7200 or [ldemont@mt.gov](mailto:ldemont@mt.gov). Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711.

The following is an unofficial **summary** of commission action; the formal minutes of this meeting will be reviewed and approved at the next commission meeting.

#### **Agenda item 1 Approve minutes from previous meetings**

*March 1, 2006*

*March 6, 2006 – telephone meeting*

Commissioner Kottel moved to approve the minutes for the March 1 and 6 meetings; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 2: Locally funded construction project on National Highway System JP Road/US 93 (Signalization – City of Whitefish)**

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to delegate commission authority to let, award, and administer the contract for this project to the city of Whitefish pending concurrence from MDT's chief engineer; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 3: Urban bridge rehabilitation**

*Scott Street Overpass – Missoula*

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of the Scott Street Overpass project in Missoula to the program; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 4: Flathead County CTEP projects on MDT right-of-way**

*East Evergreen sidewalk – Kalispell*

*Sam Bibler memorial trail – Kalispell*

Commissioner Howlett moved to adopt staff recommendations to approve the addition of two CTEP projects in Kalispell to the program, namely *East Evergreen sidewalk* and *Sam Bibler memorial trail*, with the provision that the Sam Bibler project will not proceed to programming until FFY 2005 CTEP allocations are disbursed. Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

### **Agenda item 6: Rehabilitation work on Frenchtown Frontage Rd (Secondary 574)**

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to substitute Frenchtown Frontage Road for the Deer Creek project on the 2000 Missoula District Secondary Roads Priority List; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

### **Agenda item 5: Secondary roads capital construction program**

#### *Missoula district*

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the following projects to the program, noting that priorities 1 and 2 can move forward. The remaining projects will be programmed for preliminary engineering when funding becomes available for the Missoula District Secondary Roads Capital Construction Program. Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

1. S-203, RP 5.45 – 10.2, **Eastside Highway**, Ravalli County  
Reconstruction of paved surface. Estimated total project cost is \$6.375 million.
2. S-317, RP 1.02 – 3.2, **Willow Glen/Conrad Drive**, Flathead County  
Reconstruction of paved surface. Estimated total project cost is \$4.02 million.
3. S-263, RP 5.5 – 10.6, **Mullan Road**, Missoula County  
Reconstruction of paved surface. Estimated total project cost is \$6.946 million.
4. S-292, RP 0.0 – 3.0, **Whitefish Stage Road**, Flathead County (MDT request)  
Reconstruction of paved surface. Estimated total project cost is \$3.956 million.
5. S-472, RP 10.39 – 15.4, **Blue Slide Road**, Sanders County  
Reconstruction of paved surface. Estimated total project cost is \$6.555 million.
6. S-211, RP 0.0 – 9.762, **Round Butte Road**, Lake County  
Minor rehabilitation of paved surface. Estimated total project cost is \$3.32 million.
7. S-482, RP 3.36 – 7.16, **Farm to Market Road**, Lincoln County  
Reconstruction of paved surface. Estimated total project cost \$5.055 million.
8. S-348, RP 7.1 – 14.298, **Rock Creek Road**, Granite County  
Major rehabilitation of paved surface. Estimated total project cost \$2.46 million.

For additional details, please refer to the commission's website at  
[http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans\\_comm/meetings.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml)

### **Communication with local government**

Staff will review the area of US 87 adjacent to the malting plant north of Great Falls and work with Cascade and Choteau Counties on interim measures to improve safety until the turn lane project can be built. Staff will provide a progress report for the next commission meeting on May 24.

### **Agenda item 8: Speed limit studies**

*MT 37 – north of Eureka*

*US 2 – Harlem*

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the special speed zones as noted below, and asked staff to contact the Fort Belknap tribal officials to see if they would like a speed study performed for US 2 in the vicinity of the agency; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

*MT 37 – North of Eureka*

Lincoln County Commissioners requested a reduction in the 70 mph speed limit on MT 37, beginning approximately one mile west of the intersection with US 93 and continuing east towards Eureka.

The following recommendation was presented to Lincoln County Commissioners for comment. They provided a letter concurring with the proposed 60 mph and 50 mph speed limits.

- A 60 mph speed limit beginning at station 442+00, project FAP 137 B (600 feet west of the intersection with Airport Road) and continuing east to station 484+00, an approximate distance of 4,200 feet.
- A 50 mph speed limit beginning at station 484+00, project FAP 137 B (400 feet west of the intersection with Osloski Road) and continuing east to the intersection with US 93, an approximate distance of 1,400 feet.

*US 2 – Harlem*

Blaine County Commissioners requested a reduction in the statutory 70 mph speed limit on the segment of US 2 that passes along the south side of Harlem. With the support of Blaine County, we are proposing the following 55 mph speed limit for the community of Harlem.

- A 55 mph speed limit beginning at station 237+00, project F 125(9) and continuing east to station 174+00, (100' east of the intersection with Water Plant Road) an approximate distance of 6,300 feet.

**Agenda item 9: Letting lists**

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the lettings lists presented for April, May, June, July, August, and September 2006; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

**Agenda item 10: Certificates of completion for February 2006**

Commissioner Kottel moved to accept the certificates of completion for February 2006; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

**Agenda item 11: Project change orders**

*January 2006 = \$68,704.15*

*February 2006 = \$14,510.09*

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the change orders for January and February 2006 as presented; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

**Agenda item 13: Commission discussion**

*Culvert collapse in district 5*

Frazier said we need a formal action authorizing design and letting of this project.

Commissioner Griffith moved to give MDT the authority to put together design plans for a culvert repair project underneath Interstate 94 about five miles west of Hysham near Box Elder Creek, to advertise the project using whatever timeframes the department deems necessary and appropriate, and to prepurchase material for the repairs; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

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